

**REMARKS**

This preliminary amendment is being filed in response to the Notice to Comply dated 04/07/2004. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the rejoining of Groups I and II for examination. Claim 5 has been amended to address the requirement by the Examiner that claim 5 list the SEQ ID NO for examination. Support for the new claims can be found in the specification and original claims. No new matter has been added by way of amendment. Examination and consideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

As indicated on the postcard stamped January 8, 2004, Applicants had previously submitted a CRF copy of the sequence listing along with the paper copy of the sequence listing. Applicants herewith again submit CRF copies of the sequence listing and the required statement that the CRF copies are the same as the paper copy previously submitted.

If in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject Application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of

Appl. No.: 10/068,570

Filed: 02/06/2002

Page 7

this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,

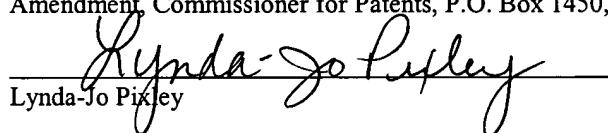


Leigh W. Thorne  
Registration No. 47,992

**Customer No. 00826**  
**ALSTON & BIRD LLP**  
Bank of America Plaza  
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000  
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000  
Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200  
Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

"Express Mail" mailing label number EV 387069515 US  
Date of Deposit May 4, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Lynda-Jo Pixley

RTA 2148076v1